

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Military Units and Installations in Zagan

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1. As of 23 October 1952, the following units were stationed at the barracks at Zagan:
 - a) Armored unit No. 1678. Strength of between 500 and 600 men. From July 1948 until the summer of 1949, Major (fnu) Sadowski was the commanding officer; he was succeeded by Lt. Col. (fnu) Kablinowski who remained until the fall of 1951. Major (fnu) Korniak commanded the unit during the fall of 1951 for three months. Later commanding officers are not known. The troops of the unit wear greenish khaki fatigues in summer, steel-grey uniforms in winter; they have black hatbands. Some of the soldiers wear pentagonal shaped black cloth insignia on their collars. There are about 100 tanks and self-propelled guns in the area, but not all belong to Unit 1678. The tanks were reported to be T-34's. The semi-propelled guns were tentatively identified as SU-85 and/or SU-100, probably on a T-34 chassis. 1
 - b) Armored unit, possibly No. 2646, about 200 men strong. Capt. (fnu) Szpalek or Szalek is the commanding officer. The uniform is the same as that worn by the unit described above. The equipment includes about 20 armored personnel carriers, up to ten trucks, about 30 BTR motorcycles, some with side cars carrying machine guns.
 - c) Unidentified armored unit, about 250 men strong. The commanding officer is Capt. (fnu) Stecki or Sztecki who succeeded Capt. (fnu) Zawadzki. During the winter of 1951-1952 and the following spring the unit was the only one in the barracks. At that time, it wore four-cornered hats in addition to its regular uniform, which is the same as the one described above for Unit No. 1678. The unit has tanks and self-propelled guns and two-ton Zis trucks.
 - d) A new armored unit is now being formed. About 100 men arrived at Zagan in October, and the rest are expected soon. New equipment had been brought in by 23 October.
 - e) There is also an infantry unit of about 600 men in the barracks. It is commanded by a lieutenant colonel; members of the unit wear the

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regulation uniforms with red hatbands. The unit is provided with light tanks having small-caliber guns, Maxim heavy machine guns, battalion and/or regimental-type mortar, Mosin-Nagant-type rifles 91/30 and submachine guns.

- f) Another unit of about 200 men to which two majors are attached.
2. The following labor forces are known to be at the Zagan barracks:
 - a) Repair yard 1: crew charged with the maintenance of tanks and vehicles stationed at the barracks. Capt. (fnu) Szyb is in charge.
 - b) Repair yard 2: the crew maintains and repairs tanks and vehicles of all units attached to the division and also makes the more intricate repairs necessary on vehicles from other units. Its commander is Capt. Liszego.
 - c) A gunsmiths' crew of about 50 men.
 3. Units stationed at the barracks did not hold any maneuvers in 1952. Unit 1678 did not move to the Swietoszow exercise field during the year. Units stationed at the barracks train constantly on the exercise field at Dziwieszowa. It is reported that Unit No. 1678 needs about 30 minutes on an alert. The same unit needs about one hour to load its heavy equipment onto a railroad train of more than 50 cars.
 4. About 50 new lieutenants, apparently fresh from officers' school, were assigned to the barracks in late September 1952. Soldiers who had served three years were to be discharged after the November Polish elections. About 100 volunteered for work on collective farms and were discharged during the first half of September. New recruits were expected at the barracks in November.
 5. Military regulations covering the insignia of rank of officers were changed on 12 or 19 October 1952. The regulations now conform with Soviet style; a captain now wears four stars instead of three.
 6. The barracks installation comprises the following buildings:
 - a) Blocks 1 through 18: house unit 1678 reported above; components of various other units
 - 1) Block 1: Headquarters of unit. About 80 meters by 20 meters. 3 floors.
 - 2) Block 2: Communications, weapons and mechanics training facilities on the first two floors. Repair Yard No. 2 crew lives on third floor.
 - 3) Block 3: Kitchen.
 - 4) Block 4: Repair Yard No. 1 crew lives on third floor.
 - 5) Block 5: Kitchen.
 - 6) Block 6: Billets for Unit 1678.
 - 7) Blocks 7, 8, 9, 11: Occupied by various elements of the units.
 - 8) Block 10: First two floors used for schools.
 - 9) Block 12: Recreation and instruction rooms on third floor.
 - 10) Block 13: Two-floor kitchen.
 - 11) Blocks 14, 16, 17, 18: Troop billets.
 - 12) Block 15: Two-story kitchen.

7. There are garages, numbered 1 through 23, which contain the vehicles of the units assigned to the barracks. Most garages have 12 entrances; each entry way can hold one tank or two trucks.

1 Comment. Unit 1678 received less training than the ones described in the following paragraphs. There are about 40 trucks assigned to the unit: 20 Studebaker and new, four-ton Molotov. The unit also has three or four Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Rocket launchers were observed at the barracks on two occasions, but it is unknown to which unit they were assigned. It is believed that some artillery is assigned to the infantry unit described later in the text.

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